

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 27, 1989

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Awesome attraction — Hoover Dam

Hoover Dam, which blocks the Colorado River to form Lake Mead, is a marvel of modern engineering. It's also a major tourist attraction for visitors to nearby Las Vegas, Nev., site

of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 13-15. (BP photo courtesy Las Vegas News Bureau.)

Bible in casino leads to Christ

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — A Bible is one of the last things gamblers here expect to see. But a couple from Canada accepted Jesus as their savior after they watched a young woman pass through a casino with a Bible in her hand.

Cindy Still, Nevada Baptist Woman's Missionary Union director, was leading a youth evangelism conference here and was staying in a large hotel casino.

Taking the only route to the exit from her room, Still was stopped in the casino by a retired couple from Toronto. The man approached her and said he had a "weird question" to ask her and asked if she had been through the casino the previous night with a Bible in her hand.

Still answered positively only to be asked if she believed in God and were a Christian. "Yes, I believe in God and I'm a Christian because of Jesus Christ," she replied.

With tears running down their faces, they asked if she had the time to talk to them.

Still spent more than an hour listening and sharing with the couple.

Plagued with family problems and an absence of peace, the couple told of traveling for months with little direction or purpose in their lives. After Still shared her Christian testimony and explained about the saving grace of Jesus, the couple bowed their head at the table and asked Christ to come into their lives.

Still then went to her room, took her New Testament Bible to the couple's room, marked it, and gave it to them.

They told her they had been searching a long time and had attended several church services, but until she told them about Jesus, they never had heard the plan of salvation.

In reference to the Southern Baptist Convention coming to Las Vegas in June, Still added, "Hopefully, this type of experience will happen over and over to the messengers coming to Las Vegas."

Still, who has given the name of the couple to a church in Toronto, told of the change that came into the couple's lives. When in the hotel room, the wife told her mate, "Honey, I don't believe we should put any more coins in those machines down there."

Prayer day to focus on Zhuang people

RICHMOND, Va. — "You can't change the world, but you can change a little piece of it."

A national charity once used that slogan to urge people to sponsor children in poverty. There was a lot of truth in the saying, but it didn't take into account the power of prayer.

Southern Baptists believe prayer can change 16 million pieces of the world this year. That is the population of the Zhuang (pronounced SHWANG) people of southern China, one of the world's least evangelized people groups.

During the 24 hours from 6 p.m. May 12 to 6 p.m. May 13 (just before Pentecost Sunday), Southern Baptists and other "Great Commission" Christians around the world will join together in the second Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization. They will fast and pray for all the world's unevangelized people (estimated at 1.3 billion), but their particular focus will be the Zhuang people.

The objective, says Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, is "to saturate the world with an unbroken global prayer chain." Parks and leaders of 20 other evangelistic organizations initiated the annual prayer emphasis when they met in 1987 to increase cooperation for world evangelization.

The Zhuang people have a language and culture similar to the Thai and

Lao peoples. They have lived in southern China for several thousand years. Though they have resisted Buddhism and Chinese ancestor worship, many of them believe in magic and shamanism. Most Zhuang people are characterized as animists.

Why pray for the Zhuang people? Because they are the largest unevangelized people group in the world with no Scripture in their own language, according to Christian researchers. They also are the largest non-Chinese ethnic group in China, and most of them remain isolated in rural areas of the southern Guangxi

region near Vietnam.

Minette Drumwright, director of the Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office, is asking Southern Baptists to pray for the following:

- that the Holy Spirit will move in the hearts and minds of the Zhuang people and create a deep longing for God, and that God will provide openings for the gospel to reach them.

- that Scripture can be translated, printed and distributed in the language of the Zhuang people.

- that the few Zhuang Christians will be strong and vital in their witness.

- that Chinese Christians will have opportunities to share their faith with Zhuang people as they live or travel among them.

- that Christians from other nations, such as the United States, will have contact with the Zhuang as they visit China or work there assisting in education, technology and other fields.

Churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and around the world will participate. Drumwright said participants can pray alone, with their families or in church groups. Possible approaches include all-night prayer meetings or prayer chains. Before the prayer period, participants are encouraged to study Scriptures that teach how fasting can increase the intensity and power of prayer.



Pray to change their lives

These two young women are members of the Zhuang (pronounced SHWANG) people of southern China, one of the world's least evangelized people groups. During the 24 hours from 6 p.m. May 12 to 6 p.m. May 13 (just before Pentecost Sunday), Southern Baptists and other "Great Commission" Christians will join together in the second Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization. They will fast and pray for all the world's unevangelized people (estimated at 1.3 billion), but their particular focus will be the Zhuang people. The Zhuang, with a population of 16 million, are the largest unevangelized people group in the world with no Scripture in their own language. They also are the largest non-Chinese ethnic group in China, and most of them remain isolated in rural areas of the southern Guangxi region near Vietnam.

(FMB) PHOTO

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Prayer and support

Surely every Mississippi Baptist will wish the very best for Bill Causey as he becomes the new executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Aug. 15. He was elected to that position by the board last Friday.

Causey approaches the position with a wealth of experience which should be a valuable asset for him. He has been pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, for almost 26 years; and it is a thriving church in a difficult location. He has been president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and a board member for the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. He is now a member of the Board of Trustees for Southern Seminary. He has been moderator for Hinds-Madison Association.

The new executive director to be describes himself as a preacher. Certainly he is that. He is also a very highly respected pastor. He is a man who is held in a great deal of esteem throughout the state and beyond.

And those qualities shone through as he was given a unanimous nomination by the Executive Committee, which served as the search committee for the Convention Board, and was

elected unanimously by the Convention Board.

These are difficult times among Southern Baptists and among Mississippi Baptists. Someone of the stature and character of Causey will be needed to deal with the circumstances that lie ahead. The agonizing conditions that have been the cause of anxiety for Southern Baptists have not been apparent among Mississippi Baptists, but it will take a steady hand to guide the ship in seeking to avoid those troubling areas.

And then we have problems of our own that will be demanding attention during the early months of Causey's tenure. In November, as the fate of Clarke College lay in the balance, the convention expanded the Cooperative Program budget by more than \$200,000 in order to make an additional \$145,000 available to Mississippi College for its administration of Clarke College. But this was just a one-year provision. It will be needed on a continuing basis. And then William Carey College was hit with problems for which it has been difficult to find solutions.

Both of these institutions, of course, have their own boards of trustees, but

a steady hand at the helm steered by the executive director can have a great influence in finding ways through the turbulent waters.

Bill Causey is a man uniquely equipped to provide such leadership.

These are not easy times, and there are sure to be days when Causey will ask himself why he left the pastorate. But he will become our next executive director. If our work is to prosper, he will have to know that he has the support and the prayers of every Mississippi Baptist.

Surely the Lord has selected him for this position at this time. Mississippi Baptists need to make him aware that they understand that and appreciate it.

He has been highly effective as pastor of a church in a troubled location. He can be effective as executive director in our state during troubled times. We must provide him our support in deed and in prayer.

If we will do that, we can be assured of being amazed at how the Lord will go before us as he leads. If we are going to work with the Lord, we need to try to fit into his method of operation. And we will never cease to be amazed if we do.

Guest opinion . . .

With God nothing is impossible

By Juanita West

Marty Romero, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church, Montrose, Mississippi, recognizes that his life demonstrates the biblical truth — that with God, NOTHING is impossible. For through God's direction in his life, Marty Romero has found his place of service in God's work.

As a young man, Marty became involved in drugs and even over-dosed on three occasions; he served in jail and, during that time, tried rehabilitation programs; but none of the programs seemed to work. Marty's wife was a church member but had not given her life to the Lord, so Marty did

not recognize any value in the church.

In February of 1982, Marty was invited by a deacon to attend services at Society Hill Baptist Church in Oakvale, Mississippi, where he lived. This long-haired, hippie-type young man decided to go to church with the idea that he would make all of these "nice society" people feel very uncomfortable. However, Marty was welcomed, hugged, and loved by the church family. That day this young man saw a difference in people's lives and told the pastor that he wanted what these people had.

As Marty involved himself in God's work with God's people, he developed an interest in the mission program of the church and in their trips to help other growing congregations such as those in Montana. From these experiences, this young Christian felt God's call to missions. Now he knew he must prepare himself but didn't know what to do since he had quit school in the eighth grade. But, as Marty believes, "The Lord brings it all together."

Ray Henry, who was at that time pastor of Society Hill, believed that Clarke College could give Marty the incentive and help needed to obtain his education. Even though Mary didn't know how he could finance his school work and really didn't want to go, Henry brought him to visit Clarke on a Wednesday after the start of the 1984 Fall semester. The very next day, Marty Romero started classes at Clarke College. The door opened; the



Shown standing at left in the photo above are Patricia and Marty Romero. Also standing are Donald and Mary Silkwood of Gulfport. Donald Silkwood was on the team from Clarke that went to Jamaica. On the front row are Evelyn Williams, admissions and financial aid director at Clarke College, and the Silkwood children.

ARCHES OF TRIUMPH



Address changes

Two changes of address need to be noted. In the last minute rush to get an address printed for reservations for the dedication May 12 and 13 of the new wing at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on Bay St. Louis, the home address rather than the office address of the manager, Frank Simmons, was used. Actually, however, the reservations need to be made through the office of the executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. The address is P. O. Box 530, Jackson 39205, and the phone number is (601) 968-3800.

Then last week in speaking to the need of Mississippi Baptist Children's Village for some immediate funds, the address was not provided. This was an editorial statement which would not

ordinarily provide an address, but such a provision very likely would aid the effort. The address is Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 11308, Jackson 39213.

It is hoped that the editorial was effective, and perhaps it was. The editor was approached immediately before worship services Sunday morning by an individual who had read the editorial, wanted to make a donation, and needed the address.

We are grateful. And perhaps through this that person will be the cause of many others making donations also as they are reminded again by means of this note. As was pointed out in the editorial, this is not a matter of a budget being out of joint but an immediate cash flow problem.

Has anybody seen the tape?

A video tape about the Baptist Record, produced by the Baptist Record, featuring members of the Baptist Record staff as its cast, and written by a Baptist Record staff member, is available to churches all over the state from the offices of the directors of missions in the

associations.

We hope that churches will avail themselves of this video tape and show it in group meetings. The aim is to promote readership.

We think that what Baptists do is interesting and that Baptists need to know what they are doing. The way to find out is to read the Baptist Record. The tape can be checked out of the director of missions office at no cost.

The script was written by Tim Nicholas, associate editor. All of the Baptist Record folks are shown in the activities that occupy them. Some scenes at the printing company are also shown.

It is called "To Be Continued." We hope that you will see it. We want you to know about us, and we want to hear from you.

money was provided that would move Marty, his wife, and two small children to Newton. After a bumpy and frustrating start, this young pastor received his AA degree from Clarke and returned to enroll in the Mississippi College at Clarke religion program, from which he graduated with a 3.72 grade point average. Presently, Marty is in his third term working toward the master of divinity. (Continued on page 4)

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Foreign Board appoints six from Mississippi



Moak

Bowen

RICHMOND, Va. — Six with Mississippi connections were among 50 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board April 11 in the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Ark.

Geraldine Bowen

As a missionary associate, F. Geraldine Bowen will live in Gaza, where she, a nurse, will be teaching nursing courses and will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1982 she has been a nursing supervisor and an intensive care unit staff nurse at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Memphis, Tenn. She is a member of Bellevue Church, Memphis.

She was born in Cross Roads, S.C. She said that Myrtle (Miss.) Baptist Church was instrumental in her Christian growth.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Blue Mountain College; the bachelor of divinity from Southwestern Seminary; the diploma in nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis; and the master of nursing degree from Emory University School of Nursing in Atlanta.

Lesa and Richard Bray

Lesa and Richard Bray will live in Chile, where they will start and develop churches, and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

He attends New Orleans Seminary, where he is in the Th.D degree program. He is pastor of Highland Church, Bogalusa, La.

Born in Memphis, he also lived in Southaven, Miss. He considers Carriage Hills Baptist Church, Southaven his home church.

He received the bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Mississippi and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans seminary.

Born in Jackson, Tenn., Mrs. Bray, the former Lesa Wimberly, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wimberly. Her father is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Malden, Mo. She received the associate of divinity degree from New Orleans seminary.

She has been a secretary for an insurance adjuster in Oxford and at New Orleans Seminary.

The Brays have two children: Eryn Michelle, born in 1980; and Lauren Elise, 1983.



Lesa and Richard Bray



Robert and Susan Morris

Laura Moak

Laura Moak will live in South Korea, where she will work with students and in a variety of outreach ministries.

She attends Southwestern Seminary and is a member of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth. Recently she was minister of youth and college students at First Baptist Church, Marshall, Texas.

Born and reared in McComb, Miss., she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Moak of that city. She considers West McComb Baptist Church her home church.

She received the associate of arts degree from Southwest Mississippi Junior College; the bachelor of music education degree from Southeastern Louisiana University; and the master of arts in religious education degree from Southwestern.

Susan and Robert Morris

Susan and Robert Morris will live in Transkei, in southern Africa, where he will start and develop churches.

(Continued on page 4)

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MBCB elects Causey unanimously as exec

By Tim Nicholas

William W. "Bill" Causey, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson, was elected executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board today. The unanimous choice of the MBCB's executive committee, which served as search committee, Causey was elected unanimously during the specially called board meeting by acclamation.

He replaces Earl Kelly, who retires in August after nearly 16 years as chief executive officer of the administrative arm of Southern Baptists in Mississippi. Causey is slated to become executive director-treasurer-elect on July 1 for orientation and will take office August 16.

Causey, who will be 58 in May, has been pastor of Parkway since 1963. Prior to that he was pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian, and from 1955 to 1957, he was assistant pastor at Parkway.

A native of Greenville, Causey is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned a master of divinity degree in 1955 from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree from MC in 1968.

Causey was president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 1979-81. He has been a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson and is now a trustee of Southern Seminary.

Parkway Church had an average weekly Sunday School attendance of 1,039 in the 1988 church year. Undesignated receipts totaled \$1,318,710 with Cooperative Program giving totaling \$81,052, or 6.1 percent. Another \$131,688 was given for missions including \$47,000 for the Lotie Moon offering.

The search committee had asked publicly for recommendations and Causey was chosen from a field of 45 nominees.

Gene Dobbs, pastor of First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, and chairman of the search committee, told board members that Causey is "a traditional, mainstream, committed Southern Baptist."

"He is theologically conservative and openly and unapologetically committed to the total integrity of the Word of God," said Dobbs, who added that Causey is not aligned with or affiliated with any group or faction within the state or the SBC.

Dobbs said one suggestion from among 600 surveys returned to the committee was that they elect "one who has the doctrinal integrity of Adrian Rogers, the denominational loyalty of James L. Sullivan, the evangelistic zeal of Billy Graham, the Sunday School enthusiasm of Andy Anderson, and the administrative ability of Lee Iacocca." He said he believes they did it.

Dobbs said that scores of dozens of times the surveys noted that the



Bill Causey

primary qualification must be that the man feels called to the office. "God sent us that man," he said.

"I really have the conviction that Mississippi has the best opportunity to lead our Southern Baptist Convention out of its present confusion..." said Causey. "I believe that if God can cause us to truly love each other by his leadership, pray down that wisdom that's from above then whatever anybody else does, I believe we can help to point them to the way that is right and true and good and preserves everything that is decent and good and changes everything that needs to be changed."

Causey and his wife, Charlotte, have three grown children.

For "Here's Hope" revivals:

5,000,000 New Testaments are ready for distribution

By Joe Westbury

ATLANTA (BP) — Media kits to support the Southern Baptist Convention's 1990 simultaneous "Here's Hope" revivals have been distributed to Baptist associations to help with local planning.

In addition, 5 million New Testaments printed specifically for the revivals are ready for immediate distribution by calling the Here's Hope toll-free phone number. The Bibles are part of a press run of 15 million, which the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board believes may be the largest religious printing order in history.

The national revivals, set for March 18-April 29, 1990, have been in the planning stages for five years. They will comprise the denomination's second concentrated attempt to evangelize the nation during the 1980s.

The media kits, valued at \$70 each, were mailed in mid-April. The mass mailing is designed to educate pastors of the availability of materials so they

can personalize their church's participation in their community.

Most of the information can be customized by overprinting the congregation's name and address, said Richard Harris, director of the SBC Home Mission Board's mass evangelism department.

The packets include a variety of sample items, such as color and black-and-white ads, bumper stickers, a lapel pin, bulletin inserts, and a video highlighting television spots that are available. A catalog and color poster also are included for each church in the association.

With the exception of the newspaper ads and television spots, all promotional materials are now available from the Here's Hope toll-free number, (800) 346-1990. The other two items will be released Oct. 1 to prevent premature use, Harris said.

The Sunday School Board is

awaiting orders for the 5 million Here's Hope New Testaments already printed. The Bibles need to be shipped to provide additional warehouse space for another 10 million New Testaments yet to be produced or else the project will be stalled, said Johnnie Godwin, director of the board's Holman division.

The Bibles are available in English in the King James and the New International versions and in Spanish in the Reina Valera Revisa, 1960 text.

In cooperation with the American Bible Society, New Testaments also will be available in Korean, French/Haitian, Chinese, and Polish.

The Gospel of John will be available in Arabic, Cambodian, Japanese, Vietnamese, Laotian, Tagalog, Romanian, and German. A total of 160,000 gospel tracts also will be printed in those languages.

Joe Westbury write for the HMB.

Southern Baptists asked to join in May 4 National Day of Prayer

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists have been asked to participate in the National Day of Prayer, May 4.

Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines and SBC Executive Committee President-Treasurer Harold C. Bennett both called Southern Baptists to prayer.

"The National Day of Prayer comes at a time when our nation faces overwhelming moral problems," said

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla. "We have failed to find solutions to these problems. An appeal to the God of heaven is our best, indeed only, solution."

The observance of the National Day of Prayer dates back to 1775, when the Continental Congress first proclaimed a day for "all English colonies on the continent as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer."

Foreign Mission Board approves 55 journeymen



Jeff and Judy Smith

Wright

Edwards

RICHMOND, Va. — Fifty-five young adults have been approved by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for training as journeymen. Five are from Mississippi.

The college graduates, all under age 27, represent the 30th Southern Baptist group selected to work overseas since the journeyman program began in the 1960s. Journeymen work two years alongside career missionaries, sharing duties that can be accomplished in English and freeing missionaries to carry out more crucial assignments.

The journeymen will fill such assignments as school teaching, teaching missionaries' children, music and student work, clerical duties and communication work. They are scheduled to work in 32 countries.

Those who received medical clearance and successfully complete a training session at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., will be commissioned for service July 16 and sent overseas.

The Mississippians are:

Cindy Edwards: Most recently employed as a teacher at Witherspoon Elementary School, Meridian. Current address: 705 Deer Run, Meridian, Miss. 39301. College: William Carey College, B.S. '87. She was a BSU summer missionary in Louisiana. Church: Russell Baptist, Meridian. Daughter of M/M Alton J. Edwards of Bratt, Fla. Assigned as an elementary teacher, Porto Alegre, South Brazil.

Beth Raley: Most recently employed as an admissions counselor at Mississippi College. Current address: c/o Anna Hamilton, 416 Woodstone Road, #F7, Clinton, Miss. 39056. College: Mississippi College,

B.S.B.A. '86. Church: First, Jackson. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Raley, Southern Baptist missionaries in Taiwan. She was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and considers it her hometown. She also has lived in Jackson. Assigned as a language student, Asia.

Jeff Smith: Most recently employed as senior pharmacy technician at Harris Hospital-Methodist, Fort Worth, Texas. Current address: 1170 Primrose St., Jackson, Miss. 39212. College: Mississippi College, B.A. '86; Southwestern Seminary, M.A.R.E. expected May '89. He made a mission trip in Texas, sponsored by Oak Forest Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. Church: Travis Avenue, Fort Worth. Son of M/M Neron Smith of Jackson. His father is cooperative missions consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He was born in Jacksonville, Fla., and considers Jackson his hometown. Assigned as a pastoral assistant/youth worker, Leven, Scotland.

Judy (Mrs. Jeff) Smith: Most recently employed as an artist at Summit Press, Fort Worth, Texas. Current address: 1170 Primrose St., Jackson, Miss. 39212. College: Hinds Junior College, A.A. '82; Delta State University, B.F.A. '84; Southwestern Seminary. Church: Travis Avenue, Fort Worth. Daughter of M/M Eugene C. Brown Sr. of Jackson. She was born in McComb, Miss., and considers Jackson her hometown. Assigned as a pastoral assistant/youth worker, Leven, Scotland.

Laura Wright: Most recently employed as a writing consultant and math teacher at the University of Mississippi. Current address: 1011 33rd St., N.W., Rochester, Minn. 55901. College: University of Mississippi, B.S. expected May '89. She was a counselor at Camp Garaywa. Church: First, Oxford. Daughter of M/M James H. Wright of Rochester. She was born in Memphis, and considers Tupelo, her hometown. Assigned as a student worker, Gaborone, Botswana.

More than 700 make decisions at youth winter conferences

RIDGECREST, N.C. — More than 5,000 young people attended the Winter Youth Celebration and three Winter Weekends at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center where a total of 722 public decisions for the Lord were made.

Registration at Winter Youth Celebration, held Dec. 27-29, 1988, was 1,462. Registration at Winter Weekends I, II and III, respectively, was 1,285, 1,583 and 2,106. The Winter Weekends were held Jan. 27-29, Feb. 17-19 and March 17-19.

The Winter conferences for youth are sponsored by the youth section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training department.

At the four conferences, a total of 120 young people made professions of faith; 538 rededicated their lives, 20 committed themselves to some type of church vocation, and 44 made other types of decisions.

'Centrist Coalition' to field candidate for SBC president

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — A group of Southern Baptist "centrists" said April 7 they plan to announce their candidate for SBC president in time for a whirlwind tour of key states before the denomination's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15.

Leaders of Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention were in Atlanta to form the organization's first state chapter. They held an informational meeting for about 100 ministers and laypeople and hosted a news conference afterward.

"There will be a candidate nominated in Las Vegas who will represent the viewpoint of trying to bring the convention together in harmony and peace, where everyone is included," said Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, and keynote speaker at the meeting.

"There are some names being considered. Nobody is yet ready to be announced."

Moore, twice an unsuccessful candidate for SBC president, is chairman of Baptists Committed. The group bills itself as a place for people who are committed to remain in the denomination despite dissatisfaction with current elected leadership.

"We're not trying to elect any group to control this convention, but to return it to the people," he said.

Moore will not be a candidate for SBC president this year, he said, but he urged the group to get out the vote for the "centrist" candidate.

"We're down to the place, as much as I dislike it, where the only thing that really counts is the number of people in the house when the vote is taken. And it's a sad commentary," he said.

Leadership of Baptists Committed has no plans to leave the convention

for other denominations or to become independent, Moore said.

He fielded a question about recent comments by Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church in Arizona, and the "moderate" candidate in last year's presidential election. Jackson, who appeared with Baptists Committed leadership in a Feb. 20 news conference in Nashville, later told reporters he would consider leading his church out of the convention.

"I think Richard Jackson is expressing the frustration he feels," Moore said. "That is not where I am. I am committed to the Southern Baptist Convention. I plan to stay committed. I'm not going to allow anybody to run me out. I'm going to stay, and I'm going to support our cooperative effort."

Moore described himself as a "militant centrist" who believes the convention "is worth committing everything that you have to."

Several pastors questioned Moore about how Baptists Committed differed from other attempts to unseat current SBC leadership. "What's to keep the 'centrist' movement from being identified as the 'moderate' movement?" one pastor asked.

Moore said Baptists Committed is different from any "moderate" groups, including the Southern Baptist Alliance. "The difference is the tack we're taking, the route we're on," he said.

"We are committed to helping turn this convention back to its historic principles, and to do it in the election of a president first of all, and then to change the rules so that nobody in any camp anywhere ever again will be able to control the appointive process in this convention."

Foreign Board appoints six

(Continued from page 3)
and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1984 he has been pastor of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church, Irving, Texas. Born in Muscatine, Iowa, Morris received the bachelor of science and master of science degrees from Southern Illinois University and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.

He has been a Foreign Mission Board journeyman in Nigeria.

Born in Greenville, S.C., Mrs. Morris is the former Susan Farrar.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Furman University and master of arts degree from Southwestern seminary.

She has been a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Mississippi and a Foreign Mission Board journeyman in Brazil.

The Morrises have one child, Kristie Susan, born in 1986.

All of these will go to Rockville, Va., in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

A bore is someone who doesn't have much to say, but you have to listen a long time to find out.

"Nothing is impossible"

(Continued from page 2)

ty degree from the New Orleans Seminary branch at Mississippi College — with God, NOTHING is impossible.

Marty's personal motto, "The only hands he has are your hands," expresses itself in his interest and desire to help in missions. Two of the active ministries under his direction while he was at Clarke were the local jail ministry and a yearly weekend evangelism rally at Parchman Penitentiary. This mission-minded young man has been to Mexico on four mission trips, to Montana on three mission projects, and to Alabama for a youth mission trip. He has just returned recently from Jamaica and is presently making plans to go to Dayton, Ohio, during the summer. Marty's hands are constantly at work as he involves himself and others in roofing, building, and evangelizing for God's kingdom. Now he tries to help others find that same direction in their lives.

Juanita West is admissions assistant at Clarke College.

Korean-American pastors celebrate Easter in North Korea

By Jim Burton

PYONGYANG, North Korea (BP) — Fourteen Korean-American Southern Baptist pastors witnessed North Korea's first celebration of Easter in 43 years in this city which was once called the "Jerusalem of the East."

The communist government of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea allowed the Southern Baptist delegation to hold a private worship service at Chang Gwang San Hotel before they attended official services at Bongsoo Church, the only Protestant church building in North Korea.

"From the beginning to the end it was a tear-jerker to know that for 43 years they have not celebrated the risen Savior," said Dan Moon, a

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board consultant for Korean church growth and church-planting and director of ethnic Brotherhood Commission programs.

The historic visit represents the first time an evangelical delegation has been invited into the communist country of approximately 20 million people.

Don M. Kim, pastor of Berendo Street Baptist Church, Los Angeles, preached the Easter message at the hotel. Won Ki (Jamie) Kim, pastor of Korean Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., presided at the service.

According to Moon, the pastors were joined by about 11 other American and Canadian Koreans who

were in Pyongyang on other business.

"After worship everyone exploded into tears," said Moon, whose office is at the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

The delegation was then bused to Bongsoo Church which was completed in late 1988. With reporters from the Soviet news agency Tass, the Chinese news agency Xinhua (pronounced Shin-wa), and the North Korean newspaper Roh Dong Press, the Southern Baptist pastors were joined by North Korean citizens and government officials.

Also in attendance was Ik-hwan Moon, a South Korean Presbyterian minister and dissident whose visit was unauthorized by the South

Korean government. Ik-hwan Moon was arrested April 13 when he returned to Seoul.

"Most people seemed to be at a distance from us," observed Dan Moon, who speculated that most of the people were invited by the government to attend.

Moon, who led in prayer during the service, said there was evidence of several committed Christians in the congregation and noted seeing one elderly woman who had memorized Scripture and songs.

The service was led by Lee Sung Bong, pastor of the state-sanctioned non-denominational Bongsoo Church, and included the Lord's Supper.

"When I held the cup I trembled," said Moon. "I asked the Lord to cover the whole church and its people with his blood. When I took the bread I could see the reality of the broken body among us."

The Southern Baptist pastors donated a public address system to the new church, then sang "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

The delegation later met with Ko Gi Jun, general secretary of the Korean Christian Federation, to discuss North Korea's participation in the 1990 Baptist World Alliance Congress to be held in Seoul.

Jim Burton writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

Thursday, April 27, 1989

First-ever

South regional meet planned for BW, BYW



Kelly



Mullins

"My Life In His Hands" is the theme for the first-ever south regional event for Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women. It will be held at Highland Church, Laurel, on May 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The two general sessions will feature interviews with volunteers and with a missionary family, music by Andrea Mullins, Baptist Women consultant for WMU, SBC, a keynote message by Marjorie Kelly, and a live presentation of the sculpting of the head of Christ by Sam Gore of the Art Department of Mississippi College.

Conferences during the day will explore such subjects as "developing your spiritual life" and "becoming a missions-minded woman." Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions of a panel of experts in two of the conferences. In one designed to deal with problems parents face raising kids in today's world, panelists will include Mary

Ann Jacobs, chairman of the Child Development Department at Hinds Community College; Gary Maze, minister of youth, activities, and singles at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson; Ronnie Kent, a pediatrician from Hattiesburg; and Pat McClain, medical director of the Alcohol and Drug Unit of Doctor's Hospital in Jackson.

The other conference, designed to deal with issues facing maturing adults, will include panelists Ethel McKeithen, worker with senior adults at Parkway Church, Jackson; Clark Hensley, family ministry consultant with Mississippi Baptists; and Bonita Bridges, area consumer management specialist with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service in Jackson.

A special presentation during the lunch hour will feature Linda Donnell and Carol Simmons of Hattiesburg, better known as "Bloom." They will deal with the Christian woman's approach to health and attractiveness. They have co-authored a book also entitled, Bloom, which will be on sale at the meeting.

The day-long conference is designed for women young and old and anywhere in between. Women not active in WMU are also invited to attend. The cost is \$4. Deadline for registration is May 2.

Interested women may register by calling 968-3800, ext. 3917.

Single adult retreat set for Gulfshore

"ALL ABOUT JOY" will be the theme for the Single Adult Retreat at Gulfshore Assembly, May 26-28.



Smith

Among those participating will be Ann Smith, national single adult specialist, Asheville, N.C.; Jay Johnston, personal enrichment consultant for single adult ministry at the Baptist Sunday School Board; and Libby Potts, minister to single adults, for Texas Baptists.

Those participating from Mississippi will be Mr. and Mrs. Joe Armour, First Church, Tupelo; Paul Jones, Christian Action Commission; Shirley Joiner, First Church, Batesville; Brenda Harden, Forest Church, Forest; Dewey Wise, professional counselor, Gulfport.

Music will be conducted by Gail Harris, First Church, Tupelo, accompanied by Ronnie McKnight, First Church, Long Beach, and Beverly Stubblefield, First Church, Slidell, La. Donna Pollard, ventriloquist, First Church, West Point, will have special



Harris



Potts

features on the program. The conferences will be geared to meeting the needs of all categories of single adults, those not yet married as well as those who have been formerly married. Opportunity will be given for special sessions with the leaders.

The conference begins with supper on Friday night and ends with lunch on Sunday noon. The total cost is approximately \$60 depending upon the type of accommodations. To register send \$30 reservation fee to Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571. For more detail concerning program call or write Family Ministry, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

Clergy hospital visits drop off

MIAMI, Fla. (EP) — Clergy visits to patients at Humana Biscayne hospital in Miami have dropped off sharply since the hospital discovered that only about 10 percent of its patients want pastoral visitation. The hospital has stopped giving clergy the

names and religious affiliations of patients unless the patient authorizes it. Assistant Administrator Carolyn Lipp explains, "It frightens people when a priest walks in with a rosary. They think they're dying."

Amid fighting, Namibia shows openness to gospel

By Marty Croll

OSHAKATI, Namibia (BP) — Fighting broke out in early April in a border area of Namibia where Southern Baptist missionaries report great openness to the Christian gospel.

Eight congregations with a total attendance of about 500 people meet in an area where South African-led security forces and guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization clashed in bloody skirmishes. Two of the congregations are new and have not organized into churches.

"We have new church groups being started practically every month," said Carlos Owens, the sole Southern Baptist missionary assigned to develop churches in the northern section of Namibia. "The people are responding like everything. I told somebody the other day we're just trying to keep up with it."

Owens and his wife, Myrtice, are from Paris, Tenn., and Dunedin, Fla., respectively. They live in Tsumeb, a town about 200 miles south of the fighting. They work with about 30 congregations, many of them along the northern border with Angola. Another

Southern Baptist missionary couple, Adney and Vel Cross of Clarksville, Tenn., live farther north in Oshakati, where they said they were able to hear gunfire from the skirmishes.

In a recently concluded accord for Namibian independence from South Africa, the South West Africa People's Organization had agreed to withdraw its forces from the country and maintain them in bases in neighboring Angola at least 100 miles north of the border. Under the plan, Namibia will hold its own elections in November. The organization has been fighting for independence since 1966 and is said to enjoy strong support in the north.

But according to news reports, South African security forces have encountered the organization's guerrillas who are said to have been entering Namibia from Angola since April 1.

The reports said some U.N. officials suggested the organization's troops mistakenly thought the final peace accord would allow them to set up bases in Namibia — a misunderstanding resulting in some of the fiercest skirmishes yet reported in the area.

Marty Croll writes for the FMB.

Judge dismisses claims against FMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A judge has dismissed several claims in two lawsuits filed against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last year by a former missionary.

In orders entered April 3 following a March 20 hearing, Richmond (Va.) Circuit Court Judge Randall G. Johnson dismissed the claims of intentional infliction of emotional harm, conspiracy and outrage filed against the mission board in suits by Diana Wade and her four children.

The dismissed claims accounted for some \$100 million of the \$141 million sought by Mrs. Wade in the two suits. Judge Johnson retained other allegations of breach of contract and negligence in the suits for further hearings. He also dismissed claims for negligent infliction of emotional harm, but granted Mrs. Wade and her children 21 days to amend these

claims if they can. Subsequent hearing dates have not been set.

The two suits claim a representative of the mission board was told that Mrs. Wade's former husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., had sexually abused the couple's oldest daughter but did not report it to Mrs. Wade or to police.

The suits say that the board's representative asked Wade to get counseling, but the missionary refused, promising the abuse would not continue. Later, the suits allege, sexual abuse of two younger daughters and a son occurred.

The Wades were missionaries in Kenya and Botswana from 1976 until their return to the United States in 1984. The board requested Mrs. Wade's resignation after her husband voluntarily submitted his resignation in August 1985. The resignations were effective Jan. 31, 1986. The couple now is divorced.



Book reviews

MOTIVATION UNLIMITED by James A. Bryant, published by Motivation Publishers, Black Mountain, N.C. 159 pp., available from the author who lives at 1010 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Miss. 39501.

This book is designed as a seminar "to breathe new health into sick churches and new enthusiasm into frustrated pastors." Chapters deal with such subjects as "Motivation for Prayer," "Motivation for Christian Homes," "Motivation for Evangelism," "Motivation for Faith in God," "When God Motivated Moses," "Motivation and Self-Image," and "How to Be Filled with the Spirit — Who Gives Motivation Unlimited." One chapter, autobiographical, is titled, "How to Marry the Right Woman." It is "for pastors and/or prospective pastors' wives." The final chapter contains a group of sermon outlines.

The author of this book is 87 years old. For 60 years he was pastor of churches in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Georgia, Maryland, and North Carolina. He organized the Baptist

church at Louise, Mississippi, among others. For 20 years, he was an army chaplain, before retiring as colonel in 1961. Division chaplain of the Fighting Fourth Infantry Division in World War II, he participated in five major battles in the European theater of operations, and was among those who made the D-Day landing in Normandy.

He was graduated from Mississippi College in 1925 and from Southwestern Seminary in 1930.

Not too long ago, he moved from Black Mountain, North Carolina, to Gulfport. He says that outdoor life in CCC camps and in the Army left him in top physical condition and that he expects to reach the year 2,000 "intact, ready for service."

As Frank Strunk says in the Introduction, "Motivation Unlimited is based on a marriage of the practical and spiritual which, as every pastor knows, is a necessary combination for a successful career." Bryant has packed the book full of gems gleaned through his many years of pastoral experience. — AWM

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CLIFF STORY
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Thursday, April 27, 1989

Student Union

Commissionaries



Vestal to permit SBC nomination

By Mark Baggett and Toby Druin
NASHVILLE (BP) — Offering himself as a "responsible reconciler, a bridge to call our people back together," Daniel Vestal announced April 16 that he will permit his nomination as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13.

Vestal made the announcement to Dunwoody (Ga.) Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, where he has been pastor since October 1988, following a 12-year pastorate at First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas.

"After going through a great deal of soul-searching and prayer, I've come to a conviction that this is God's will for me," Vestal said.

He described his decision as a personal conviction and said he is "not anybody's candidate." However, he said he is a "centrist" in the SBC theological/political controversy.

"I am theologically and biblically conservative and have proven that I am committed to the cooperative approach to missions," Vestal said.

He hopes to return to the "time-honored principles of Southern Baptists: the authority of Scripture, the priesthood of believers, the autonomy of the local church, the separation of church and state, and the cooperative approach to missions rather than the independent approach," he said.

"Because of our allegiance to those principles, we have thrived. But we are no longer thriving, because we are drifting away from those principles."

Vestal plans to "be vocal" before the SBC meeting, June 13-15: "I will speak up and out to groups, churches and individuals. I think a lot of people in this convention want to hear from someone like me, from someone who is both biblically conservative and denominationally involved."

His decision is "not so much to run against Jerry Vines personally," Vestal said. Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., is completing his first year as SBC president and said in February he is willing to be nominated for a second term.

"I served with Jerry Vines on the Peace Committee for two years and love him as a Christian brother and value his friendship and his ministry," said Vestal.

The 3,500-member Dunwoody church gave \$295,036 to the Cooperative Program in 1988 and will give 12 percent of undesignated receipts this year, Vestal said. He has baptized more than 100 people since moving there last October. He calls himself a biblical inerrantist.

Mark Baggett writes for the Alabama Baptist; Toby Druin for the Texas Baptist Standard.

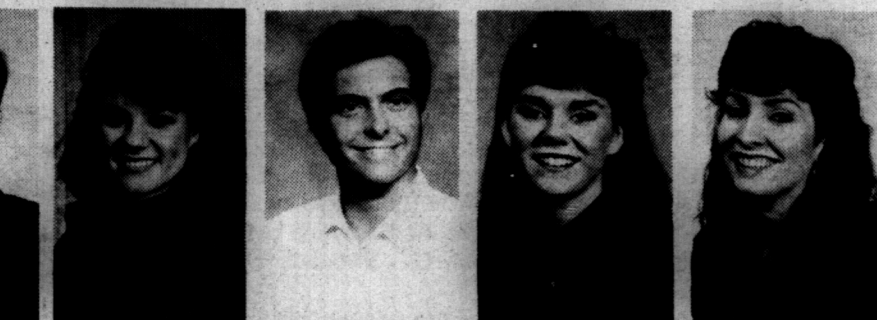
High court rejects dispute over zoning

WASHINGTON (BP) — A church's challenge to a county zoning ordinance has been rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The justices, without comment, turned down an appeal from Messiah Baptist Church in Jefferson County, Colo.

In 1974, the congregation purchased an 80-acre parcel for the purpose of building new church facilities. But the property was in a zoning district that did not allow the construction of church buildings.

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Monticello begins television ministry

First Church, Monticello, James Fancher, pastor, recently began televising its worship services on Channel 23 of the local cable TV system in Monticello. In addition to the televising of each of its weekly services, the church also launched the ACTS network. Daniel Branning is shown at the television controls. Rusty O'Neal is chairman of the local ACTS Board.

High Hill ordains pastor called to Idaho

Terry Glenn Brown was ordained to the gospel ministry by High Hill Church near Philadelphia, April 16. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary, and has been called to be bi-vocational pastor of First Baptist Church, Kimberly, Idaho.

In the morning service, Brown preached; his brother, Craig Brown of Philadelphia, led the music.

The charge was given by Kermit Sharpe, Neshoba director of missions, and the ordination sermon was preached by the pastor, Paul H. Leber. Brown and his wife, Anne, and their

daughters, Allison and Meredith, will be going to Idaho in the near future. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Brown of Columbia; his mother, the former Jelene Watkins, grew up in the High Hill community. (More than half the congregation present for the services were relatives of Brown!)

Genevox album wins Dove Award

NASHVILLE (BP) — "In His Presence: The Risen King," a Christian musical album produced by the Genevox Music Group of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was named musical album of the year in the Gospel Music Association's 20th Annual Dove Awards April 13.

The album was one of five nominated in the musical album-of-the-year category. The songs were written by Dick and Melodie Tunney, GMA songwriters of the year for 1987. Sam Sanders and David Danner of Genevox were executive producers of the album.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Different races

Editor:

Since the problem of racism is continually mentioned in our paper, I have one question that I would like to pose for all the readers. If racism is such a great sin, being ranked with drug use and pornography, why didn't Jesus Christ make at least one statement against it while he was here? He never actually spoke out against slavery. God must have had some reason for creating the different races. And I for one do not intend to try changing something that he put in to being.

Lamar Wray
Kilmichael

Pastor expectations

Editor:

My husband is pastor of a small rural church. I am concerned because my husband and other pastors often get burdened down trying to be what churches expect when they should be allowed to minister as God leads.

Each member has expectations of what a pastor should be, and one seldom agrees with another. Many want a strong leader but don't desire

to follow. Some expect him to spend all his time visiting and complain if he asks for help or doesn't visit them often enough. Some think he should magically make attendance grow but don't understand we are all called to reach out. Others pray for the Lord to guide the pastor in sermons and then gripe about the length, content, and delivery when he preaches what the Lord gives him. Many feel called to point out the personal flaws of the pastor and his family when a word of encouragement would go much further than criticism.

I am saddened that too often after a pastor has been in a community awhile an "us-against-them" struggle occurs between the church and pastor. The same church that prays for God's leadership in calling a pastor seems to feel God made a mistake as time goes by and takes matters in its own hands. We should be working together toward growth and unity rather than against one another.

I wish church members would understand that a pastor and his family need to be treated with the same love and respect they expect. They need to see each pastor is an individual with unique God-given

abilities. He can never be like another pastor, but the Lord will use him as He sees fit for that time in that church. He needs prayer and support, rather than criticism and rebellion. The greatest thing we all can do is "love one another."

Name withheld
by editor

No monopoly on grace

Editor:

Do Southern Baptists have a monopoly on God? Just as the Jews could not accept the truth that they had no monopoly on the grace of God and that his love extends to others, I think Southern Baptists oftentimes have difficulty grasping this truth.

Contrary to what some may think, Christ's parting words in Acts 1:8, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth," were not spoken to Southern Baptists alone. It is the duty of any Christian to go when God calls.

If the great objective of "The world for Christ in this generation," is to be achieved, then all of us will have to work a lot harder, side by side, and not be critical of any fellow Christians who are trying to reach others for Christ.

Some of us Southern Baptists sit back and do nothing, and then are critical of others who do what we should be doing.

Mrs. Faye Welch, West

Resolution disfavors legalizing beer sales

The Executive Committee of the Alcorn Baptist Association met in regular session April 9. Among items of business was a resolution concerning the legalization of beer sales in the city of Corinth.

The resolution follows:

"Be it resolved that we, the Alcorn County Baptist Executive Committee, do vigorously oppose, as a unit and as

individuals, the proposed immoral legalization and sale of beer in the city of Corinth.

"Be it further resolved that we are opposed to both the legal and illegal sale and use of all alcoholic beverages, and will actively campaign to rid our county of said beverages and their evil influences.

"Be it further resolved that we in-

vite the prayers and active involvement of all morally-minded citizens to assist in the total defeat of the legalization effort."

Nat Mayhall is director of missions.

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_____ August 25-26, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Cost \$35.00 (Room free for 40 couples)

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Leaders — Carl Dickerson, Laurel and George F. Lee, Columbia.

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Annuitants will celebrate 'The Joy of the Lord'

Participants will celebrate "The Joy of the Lord" at the five-day Annuitant Conference sponsored by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The first of three annual conferences, the event will be at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, May 1-5. The activities begin with dinner on Monday and close with breakfast on Friday.

The sessions will be built around the overall theme of "The Joy of the Lord... My Strength... My Security... My Solace... My Song."

Conference activities will include worship, Bible study, prayer sessions, small-group workshops, special music, a crafts fair and a banquet.

Optional afternoon workshops for participants include calligraphy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, crafts, oil painting, genealogy, and coping with stress.

Preaching each evening will be Bruce McIver, pastor emeritus of Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas. His wife, Lawanna, will speak each morning. She is a former talk show host

on the ACTS network.

The Bible study leader will be Allen Walworth, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Special music will be presented by Beverly Terrell, concert artist and pianist from Houston; and the Mars Hill (N.C.) College Choir and Ensemble.

Cost for the conference, which includes four nights' lodging, 11 meals and the conference center fee, is \$175.50 for single occupancy; \$120.50 double occupancy; and \$108.90 for three in a room. A \$20 per-person deposit, which will be deducted from total cost, must accompany reservations.

To make reservations send names, addresses and deposits (checks payable to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center) to: Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.

Other annuitant conferences scheduled for 1989 are: Sept. 11-15 at Schooco Springs, Ala.; and Oct. 2-6 at Windermere, Mo.

T. B. Brown, former president, Mississippi Baptist Seminary, dies

Thomas Benjamin Brown, 72, of 1526 Schoolview Drive, Jackson, the pastor emeritus of Mount Helm Missionary Baptist Church, and a former president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, Jackson died of heart failure April 9 in Hinds General Hospital.

Services were held April 14 at Mount Helm Church with burial in Garden Memorial Park.

Brown, the 11th of 15 children, a native of Brookhaven, joined Beulah Chapel M. B. Church at an early age. A 1937 graduate of Alexander High School in Barokhaven, he received his bachelor of science degree from Jackson State University; a master of arts in administration from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.; a bachelor of divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological

Seminary in New Orleans; and an honorary doctorate of divinity from Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

He married Marguerite Dancy in 1940, and assumed the pastorate of his father, Augustus Brown's, church, Mount Wade M.B. Church in Brookhaven, as his first ministry. He later became pastor of Sardis in Hazlehurst, Mount Bethel in Gulfport, and Shady Grove in Hattiesburg. Before assuming the pastorate of Mount Helm Church in Jackson, where he remained for 20 years, he was a teacher and principal at Randolph High School in Pass Christian.

Brown had served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, and second vice president of the General Missionary State Baptist Convention.

Survivors include: wife, Marguerite; and three sisters.

Newton County announces area-wide revival crusade

The Newton County Association is planning a county-wide evangelistic crusade, April 30-May 5. Services will be held at 7:30 each evening in the stadium of East Central Community College, Decatur. (In the event of inclement weather on any evening, the service will be held in the college auditorium.)

Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., will be the evangelist. Ed Keyes, minister of music of the same church, will be the music evangelist.

The following persons constitute the Crusade committee: general chairman, Gus Merritt; arrangements committee chairman, Clinton Russell; counseling committee chair-

man, Frank Harmon; finance committee chairman and treasurer, Wayne Campbell; music committee chairman, Randy Cuchens; nursery committee chairman, Mrs. Don Gordy; outreach and attendance co-chairman, Ed Knox and Jimmy McDill; prayer committee chairman, Terrell Suggs; publicity committee chairman, Jack Bynum; ushers and parking committee chairman, Kenneth Chaney; and youth committee chairman, Paul Sizemore.

Names in the news

Lizana Church has licensed Robert O. "Red" Bowen to the gospel ministry.

Don Vaughan is available for pulpit supply or a small church to pastor. Contact him at 842-0842, or write 62 Chateau Royale, Tupelo, MS 38801.

Chaplains plan Gulfshore retreat

The Mississippi Baptist Chaplain Association Retreat scheduled for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly May 5-6 will deal with stress management.

Fred McGehee, consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board, will be the featured speaker.

The retreat will begin on Friday at 4 p.m. and continue through Saturday noon. The Cooperative Missions Department, MCB, has registration information, phone 968-3800.

Volunteer and professional chaplains are invited to participate.

LPN Day set for May 1

MEMPHIS — To initiate National Nurse's Week, Baptist Memorial Hospital will sponsor an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) Celebration Day on Monday, May 1, at the Medical Center auditorium, Memphis.

The day is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of LPNs, honoring the daily contributions LPNs make in providing quality patient care. The program will consist of two one-half day sessions, 8 a.m.-12 noon, and 1-5 p.m. Lunch will be provided at both programs.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, call Staff Development in the hospital's department of Nursing Services, 522-5631.

Homecomings

East Mount Zion, Baldwin: May 7; Don Wilson, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, speaker at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. services; lunch served at noon in fellowship hall; Ed Campbell, pastor; Jerry McBride, music.

Providence, Cleveland: May 7; services at 10 a.m. with Sunday School; worship at 11 a.m.; former pastor I.R. Hill will preach; lunch served at noon; Eugene Waldon, pastor.

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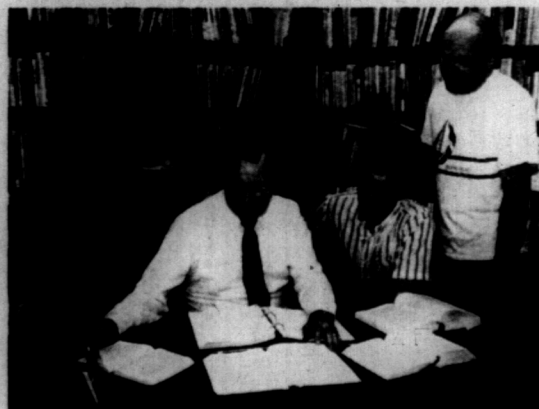
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Wolfe

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Just for the Record



The BSU at Jones County Junior College recently dressed nine migrant children as one of the yearly mission endeavors of the students. The students who were dressed were selected from three local grammar schools by their migrant teachers.

The executive council of the BSU raised over \$900 to fund this project. This is done twice a year by the students as part of their home mission projects.



Parkview Church, Greenville, had a noteburning ceremony, April 9, for a 20-year-old note on its present sanctuary.

Plans are being made to begin construction on a New Family Life Center. It will be a multi-purpose building which will consist of a gymnasium, fellowship hall, kitchen, chapel, choir room, classrooms, and offices.

Pictured left to right, are Roy Raddin, director of missions for Washington County; Dan Robertson, former pastor; Richard Johnson, present pastor; Jack Bennett, chairman of trustees; Rolfe Dorsey, former pastor (pastor when sanctuary was built); and Larry Cox, former minister of youth.

North Oxford, Oxford, will celebrate its 40th anniversary, April 30. Special guests for the day include Jim Bain, former pastor, now pastor of Istrouma Church, Baton Rouge, La., will preach Sunday morning. Randy Bain, son of Jim Bain, and pastor of Abbeville Church, Abbeville, will preach Sunday evening.

Dinner on the grounds will follow morning worship services. William A. Vail is pastor.

The combined Mississippi College Choirs and Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will present a performance of Johannes Brahms A German Requiem in Swor Auditorium on the Clinton campus at 8 p.m. on May 4. The performance is free and open to the public. The performance, which will feature the 75 voices of the Mississippi College Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers, will be conducted by James Glass, associate professor of music. Soloists will be Mrs. Mittie Smith Douglass, soprano, who is an Instructor of Voice in the music department, and James Richard Joiner, baritone. Joiner is head of the Department of Music.

Lawrence County Association will sponsor a "Youth Evangelism Day" on April 27. The Youth Happening Service will be at Monticello Church at 7 p.m. James Messer vocational evangelist from Mobile, will preach. Emily Reid, music evangelist from Brookhaven, will lead the music and entertain the youth. The speaker and the musician will be in the schools for various appearances during the day. Sammy J. McDonald III is evangelism chairman for Lawrence County Association.

Blue Mountain College will host its annual Alumni Day on Friday, April 28. President E. Harold Fisher invites all BMC alumni to attend.

Evangelist Bill Stafford of Chattanooga, Tenn. will preach during the alumni meeting and Randy Isbell, BMC alumni president, will deliver the chapel message.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the student union building. Recipients of the James Travis Scholarship Fund will also be recognized during the meeting. The meeting will conclude with the alumni golf tournament.

Appeals court okays lawsuit by bugged churches

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — Churches may sue the U.S. government for sending undercover agents to spy on their congregations, a federal appeals court has ruled. The ruling came in a case related to government investigation of the Sanctuary movement, a church-based program of harboring illegal aliens from certain Central American countries.

Informants hired by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) attended and secretly recorded church services and Bible study meetings at four Arizona churches in 1984-85. The government says its surveillance was motivated by church involvement in harboring illegal aliens. The INS says the Sanctuary movement threatened U.S. immigration policy.

The lawsuit was brought by the Presbyterian Church (USA), and by the American Lutheran Church (now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

Women in Ministry plan seventh meeting

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will convene for the organization's seventh annual meeting at the Alexis Park Resort here, June 10-11.

"Stories of Faith: A Rich Tapestry" will be the theme of the meeting.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 10, followed by the first session at 10. The last session begins at 10 a.m. Sunday. Registration is \$25. The Saturday evening banquet will cost an additional \$10.

Keynote speakers for the two-day annual meeting will be Catherine Allen, associate executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Jack Harwell, editor of SBC Today newspaper; Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America; Phyllis Rodgers

Pleasants, student at Southern Seminary; Cheryl Collins, minister of youth at McLean (Va.) Baptist Church; and Marsha Moore, senior chaplain at St. Joseph Northeast Hospital in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Saturday afternoon program will allow participants to choose to attend two seminars. Seminar topics will include "It Only Hurts When I Don't Laugh," "Methods for Implementing Inclusive Language in the Church," "The Ministry of Listening," "The Preaching Event" and "Understanding and Effecting Change in the Local Church."

Special music and liturgical dance will be provided by Agape and the Liturgical Dancers of South Main Baptist Church in Houston. The Agape singers also will provide entertainment during the Saturday evening banquet.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- May 1 *WMU Special Day and Edwina Robinson Offering (WMU Emphasis)
- May 2 Minister of Education Update/Input; Baptist Building; 9:30-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)
Senior Adult Leadership & Enrichment Day; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; FBC, Starkville/FBC, Batesville/Emmanuel BC, Greenwood (Fam. Min.-CT)
- May 4 Adult Choir Festival; FBC, Greenwood; 7-9 p.m. (CM)
Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship Meeting; FBC, Jackson; 6:15-9 p.m. (BRO)
- May 5-6 Chaplains Retreat; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 p.m., 5th-3 p.m., 6th (CoMi)
- May 6 VBS Summer Explosion Workshop; Pinelake BC, Brandon; 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (SS)
BW & BYW Regional Meeting; FBC, Laurel; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (WMU)

Campers will gather in Las Vegas, Nev.

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Campers on Mission will gather in Las Vegas, Nev., for a regional rally and mission projects prior to the denomination's annual meeting June 13-15.

Carl Reagan, Campers on Mission specialist with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said campers will do construction work for at least three churches, assist with "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals and participate in the one-day witnessing blitz planned by the board June 10.

Campers on Mission is a national organization to promote mission action among Southern Baptist campers of all ages. Although most Southern states have active chapters, few Western states have organized chapters, Reagan said.

The regional Campers on Mission rally scheduled for June 2-4 in Las Vegas will target campers from Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and California. The support of campers from other states will help launch these Western chapters, Reagan said.

Campers will work in the Las Vegas area from the time of the rally through June 15, he said. After the convention, the group will caravan to the national Campers on Mission rally in Guthrie, Okla., June 23-25.

RV space reservations for Las Vegas should be made with Shirley Cramer at Sam's Town RV Park, (800) 634-6371, Reagan said. Southern Baptist campers will receive a special rate of \$5 per night.

Gary G. Berry has accepted a call as pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, effective May 1. His first



Berry

Sunday in the pulpit there will be May 7. He goes from the pastorate of First Church, McComb, where he has been since 1986. Berry was born in Magee. He was graduated from William Carey College and received master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

He is a trustee of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center; a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and a member of the Order of Business Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He has served on the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, as a trustee of Clarke College, and as president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference. He has been involved in starting missions in Montana and Michigan. Currently he is writing Sunday School lesson commentaries for the Baptist Record.

Hal Bates has been called as pastor of Meadowood Church, Amory. He previously served at Ecru Church. He received his B.A. degree from Delta State University and his masters of divinity from New Orleans Seminary.

Benson Bexley is the new pastor of Northside Church, George Association.

First Church, Waveland, has called Kurt Wesolowski as pastor. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Revival dates

Harmony (Carroll): May 1-5; 7:30 p.m.; William Daves, evangelist; Mrs. David Myers, pianist.

Shiloh (Alcorn): April 30-May 5; services, 7 p.m.; Joe Boatwright, pastor, Aloma, Winter Park, Fla., evangelist; David Hatfield, W. Corinth, Corinth, music; Billy Beckett, pastor.

County Line, Mendenhall: April 30-May 3; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week night services, 7 p.m.; Keith Stephens, pastor, St. Joseph in St. Joseph, La., music evangelist; Shelly Johnston, minister of music, County Line.

High Hill, Philadelphia: April 30-May 4; Parkes Marler, preaching; Alvin Moore, music; Paul H. Leber Sr., pastor.

First, Flowood: youth revival; April 28-30; 7 each night; services will be led by Jeff Powell and Kris Dekker; Ricky Gray, pastor.

Westwood, Meridian: Apr. 28-29; "The Youth Connection"; services conducted under a tent behind the church, 7-9 p.m.; Keith Thrash, pastor, Russell Church, messages; concerts each night by Seventh Angel of Jackson.

Unity, Duck Hill: Apr. 28-30; services, Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m., covered-dish luncheon following services; singing featuring the Glory Road Boys.

Courtland (Panola): Apr. 30-May 3; Don Davidson, evangelist; Curt Davis, song leader; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; fellowship meal (potluck) following Sunday morning service; Billy J. McDaniel, pastor.

Staff changes

Olivia Killebrew, administrative secretary, Gulf Coast Association, has announced plans to retire. She has served on the association staff for 17 1/2 years.

Bayside Church, Gulf Coast, has called Robert Cooper as pastor. He formerly served in that association at the Gulfport Heights Church.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

God keeps all his promises

By J. Greg Martin

Joshua 13:1, 6-7, 14:5; 19:49-59; 21:43-45

Have you ever been disappointed because of unkept promises? Do you remember the hurt? Do you recall how hard it was to trust again?



Martin

We all have experienced despair because of unkept promises. However, the Bible tells us that in our relationship with God we never have to worry about his not fulfilling his word. When God makes a promise, it is more certain than life itself. II Peter 3:9 reminds us "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise." II Corinthians 1:20 informs us that "all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." From Joshua 13 through Joshua 21, we discover how God keeps his promises to us by enabling us to fulfill his purpose.

God's promise of the land of Canaan was given to Abraham in Genesis 15:18. Throughout the leadership of Moses and Joshua the promise

LIFE AND WORK

was renewed. In Joshua 13:1, we discover Joshua was at an advanced age when the Lord told him to apportion among the Israelite people the land that had originally been promised to their ancestors. Some have suggested Joshua to have been in his eighties. From that we can learn that sometimes the fulfillment of God's promises appears, from the human perspective, to be delayed. A Christian would do well to remember God's timetable is always best. Our Lord is never late in fulfilling his word.

From these chapters, we can also learn that God keeps his promises even to those who have not yet perfectly obeyed him. In 13:6-7, we see the Lord told Joshua to apportion the Promised Land, even though some of the territory he had commanded the people to occupy remained untaken. II Timothy 2:13 reminds us, "If we are faithless, He will remain faithful."

This principle is not to be misunderstood to say that God excuses or ignores our disobedience.

He desires his people to act faithfully in expectation of the fulfillment of his promises. God instructed Joshua to allocate some territory that had not yet been taken, the inhabitants of which God promised to dispossess before the Israelites. The way God would remove the inhabitants from the land would be by his people conquering. Herschel Hobbs has correctly stated, "God promised, but Israel had to possess." As the children of God had to work and obey to see the fulfillment of God's promises, so must we. Joshua 14:5 states, "As the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land." Obedience is important in seeing God's promises fulfilled. Only after the Israelites were obedient was God's word fulfilled.

From these events we learn that God enables his people to accomplish his word. The New Testament gives several examples of how this is realized. Jesus said in John 15:5, "For without me ye can do nothing." He promised Christians the resources to witness in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Paul wrote of his confidence in the Lord in Philippians 1:6, "He which hath

begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." When the Lord calls upon believers to accomplish some task, he is always there to enable.

In Joshua 19:49-50, we discover the generosity of the people in their giving Joshua the city of Timnathserah. This was a city located ten miles northwest of Bethel, in the area we know as Samaria. It was near Bethel that Abraham built his first altar in Canaan, thus claiming the land for his ancestors. From this we learn that persons who serve God faithfully share in the fulfillment of his promises.

In chapter 21, God's preciseness in keeping his word is discovered. Verses 43-45 tell us God gave Israel all the land, rest on every side, victory over all enemies, and fulfillment of all his promises. It would be well for every promise seeker to memorize verse 45, "There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

Our God is the same today as he was yesterday. His promises are for our possession.

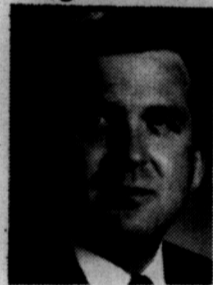
Martin is pastor, Commission Road, Long Beach.

The blessings of being a Christian

By Gary G. Berry

Ephesians 1:3-14

A Christian should praise God for every spiritual blessing which comes as a result of being saved (verse 3). Paul, with an outpouring of his heart, shouted with grateful praise. He had come to know God personally through faith in Jesus Christ, rather than through the law or his own conscience. He was overwhelmed by the blessings which resulted.



Berry

Today, most Christians are grateful for good jobs, loving families, and personal successes. For Paul, however, the blessings of God went far beyond those measurable terms. He was conscious of the blessings of God in spite of outward circumstances. The blessings of God were spiritual blessings, meaning that these blessings have no explanation other than that they come as a part of God's purpose and love (verse 4).

One blessing enjoyed only by Christians is

UNIFORM

that God has chosen them before the foundation of the world (verse 4). That means God always had a plan for bringing people to himself. From this scripture came the doctrine of election. Simply stated the doctrine of election means that God has taken the initiative to save men. Without God taking the first step, no man could be saved. This doctrine does not mean God has decided to save a few and destroy the rest. God will save "whosoever will" come to him in confession, repentance, and faith. Election in this passage has nothing to do with blind destiny. God continues to draw men to himself. It is "not his will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

The purpose of God in calling men to himself is that they should be holy and blameless before him (verse 4). Moreover, he has chosen that Christians be adopted, or placed as his own sons (verse 5). One becomes a child of God, not by natural birth or conscientious work, but by the grace of God. Salvation is totally dependent

upon the work of God. The believer in repentance of sin offers his life to God and receives the free gift of God.

Those who have come to God through Christ are accepted, redeemed, and forgiven (verses 6-7). The word "redeem" means to pay the price for deliverance, as in setting a slave free after purchasing him in the slave market. The blood of Jesus which was shed on the cross was the price paid for the sins of man. Without that price being paid, no man would have hope of redemption. The believer also has experienced the forgiveness of God. The word forgiveness includes a picture of our sins being removed or carried away. God forgives, carries sins away, and frees from the mastery of sin. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

The grace of God provides wisdom, insight, and understanding of the will of God (verses 8-10). God's plan and purpose, which had been secret, and now revealed in Jesus Christ. In the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the pieces of life's puzzle may now be fitted together. The ultimate goal of God is that both the natural universe, as well as redeemed men, shall be

brought under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The purpose of God to redeem men from their sins and to bring them and the universe ultimately under the Lordship of Jesus is independent of any outside involvement (verse 11). God works according to the counsel of his own will.

When a person is saved, he receives the Spirit of God into his life. The Holy Spirit seals the believer until the plan of redemption is totally realized (verses 13-14). The seal of the spirit is God's mark of ownership. In ancient times when a king wrote a document, he sealed it with the imprint of his ring on wax. The indwelling Spirit is evidence that the Christian is a child of God.

The Holy Spirit is also the guarantee of our inheritance (verse 14). He is the earnest payment made by God to us as a guarantee that he will carry through on the commitment he has made to us. Lift up your heads, Christians; the best is yet to come! You have an inheritance awaiting you beyond this life of time and space. Praise his name for the blessings which are yours now, and for those yet to come.

Berry is pastor, First, McComb.

Paul ministers in Achaia

By Bert Breland

Acts 17:16-18:22

In the previous lesson we noted that Paul had received a definite call from God to go over into Macedonia. It is also noted that he had no small amount of trouble



Breland

while preaching in Macedonia. In Philippi he was jailed, in Thessalonica he caused a terrible uproar, in Berea he was accepted but his trouble from Thessalonica followed him and he had to leave Berea under escort. There just may be a lesson here for all Christians in regard to God's will. When we find it and

follow it there is no guarantee of smooth sailing. As one preacher put it, "I'd rather be in a boat with Jesus in the middle of a storm than in the boat with the devil on a calm sea." Following God's call does not guarantee easy times.

Paul was fleeing to save his life as he left Berea on his way to Athens. Because Timothy

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and Silas remained in Berea a while longer Paul was waiting for them so that they could return to Antioch of Syria. From the text it appears that Paul had not intended to preach in Athens, a city of Achaia. However, when he saw that the city was full of idols he couldn't contain the message of the good news any longer. He began to go to the synagogues and the marketplace every day to discuss the gospel. As it turned out, Athens was a city that was very open to new philosophies and the people heard Paul out of curiosity as much as anything else, because of this new idea he was preaching.

Paul's most notable accomplishment while in Athens was the sermon that he delivered before the Areopagus. This is also known as the sermon on Mars Hill. The Areopagus was a Greek council or court in the city of Athens. In days gone by, the Areopagus had heard criminal cases as well as civil disputes. It is not clear if this was an official meeting of the Areopagus that Paul has been summoned to or if it was an unofficial meeting or gathering just to hear peo-

ple speak about interesting new philosophies. In either event, Paul seized the opportunity to preach the gospel to the leaders of Athens. Paul's approach to this sermon was brilliant. It serves as a wonderful example for all of us in our witness opportunities.

When Paul stood to speak, he had already assessed the situation, and he began to speak to these men about things with which they were familiar. Paul began by referring to their altar to an unknown god. While it may appear to us that Paul was somewhat sarcastic, I'm sure he had captured their attention because he was offering to them knowledge that they lacked. Paul did what any effective witness should do. He met the people where they were and then took them to Jesus. He dealt first with things that they were interested in and then he went to the subject that most interested him, Jesus Christ. The result was that some believed. There was even one believer who was a member of the Areopagus Council.

Paul left Athens shortly after preaching at the Areopagus and went to Corinth. It is likely that Paul met Priscilla and Aquila while he was seeking a place to work in Corinth. Both Paul

and these two were tentmakers or leather workers by trade. Most scholars believe that Priscilla and Aquila were already Christians when Paul met them, because there is no mention of their conversion at that time. If they were Christians when Paul first met them, it would indicate that there had been a very early witness in the city of Rome which was their home. Priscilla and Aquila became Paul's lifelong friends and co-laborers in the gospel.

Christians today know more about the church at Corinth than any other New Testament church because of Paul's long stay there and his extensive writings. Luke, on the other hand, gave little attention to this church except to point out two things: (1) a distinct break was made with the synagogues at this point and the church would begin to develop separately from the Jewish religion. (2) the Roman proconsul, Gallio, refused to side with the Jews in their case against the church. Luke's purpose was obviously not to give us a history of the Corinthian church, but rather to show us that the doors were opening for the gospel to be proclaimed.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"St. Frances of Biloxi"

"I don't have patience with people who say, 'I'm bored.'" Across Frances Cody's shoulder, through the window of Harbor House, I could see the outline of a shrimp boat.

Certainly she leaves herself no time to be bored. After her husband died in 1982, she decided to use her extensive experience as a nurse to help others, and she has done so constantly since that time, at no charge. Before retirement, she was a nurse 22 years at Keesler Air Base. Says her Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church, Biloxi, Lillie Pearl Flake, "She is an angel of mercy to anyone who is ill." As soon as she knows of an illness, and sees a need for her services, she goes directly and offers them. One couple, Augie and Neva Salter, whom she "nurtured and sustained" through six deaths in their family, named her "St. Frances of Biloxi."

Now she lives at the home of her son, Fred Cody, Jr. (Chick) at 135 Sherwood Circle, Ocean Springs. Mornings she drives to her mother's house in Biloxi, where she bathes her 88-year-old mother, prepares lunch for her, and goes to the drugstore or runs other errands for her. Though Frances was born in Mobile, she grew up in this Biloxi house where her mother lives with one of Frances's sisters.

Usually she goes once a month to see her aunt, Ethel Balus, to help pay her bills. However, when the aunt broke her leg, she sat with her often.

She sometimes goes with someone to the dentist, or she accompanies someone who must take a cancer treatment — she just goes wherever she feels she is needed.

One day she visited a friend whose husband had cancer. Her visit lasted for three months. That first night, the man who was ill said to her, "Don't go home. My wife has a gown that will fit

any size person." So she didn't even go home that night to get more clothes.

Now, as a result of that experience, she keeps extra clothes in her car in the event someone asks her to spend the night; then she won't have to drive back to Ocean Springs.

"Medicine is so great," Frances said, "but so much more powerful when accompanied with prayer, because that gives hope. I let the patient know 'God loves you. He knows you are hurting.'"

In her nursing, she said, she has found plenty of opportunities for witnessing, though not all people respond. One woman, she remembers, she prayed with while giving her a bath. Then she read to her the 23rd Psalm. "She wanted to repeat it after me, right then. She said, 'I might not have the strength to say it tomorrow.'"

She has had no problem witnessing, even in a government hospital. "Usually the patient would ask me, 'What church do you attend?' and that would help me to turn the conversation toward God." She accepted Jesus as her Savior when she was a teen. She credits him with giving her strength to do the myriad things she does.

Her late husband, Fred Cody, a well-to-do Biloxi attorney, was also born in Mobile, of parents from Beirut, Lebanon. After a car accident, she asked him to be her lawyer, and he fell in love with her. "Everywhere I went, he was there." He was a Catholic; she belonged to Assembly of God (one of her brothers is a missionary with that denomination in Uruguay). In the 1960s, they both joined First Baptist Church, Biloxi.

After his death, her favorite Scripture was especially meaningful to her: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee,

because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Besides her caring for the sick, Frances has a hobby. "I believe in having fun!" she declares. She helps decorate for weddings, receptions, fiftieth wedding anniversary celebrations, parties, class meetings, luncheons. For the weddings, she's done lots of arrangements of silk flowers. For this, she will accept no pay. To her, it's fun.

In January, the senior adults at First, Biloxi had a birthday party — a table decorated for each month. Frances, whose birthday was September 19, 1918, decorated the September table. Her aim was to contribute a coconut cake that she made "from scratch." It flopped in the middle, but she had a lot of fun sharing it anyway. I asked her if she learned to cook from her father, who owned a bakery. She said, "No."

Her varied activities have resulted in many friendships: "All of these friendships have made my world larger."

Her daughter, Elizabeth, is married to Bill Metcalf, minister of music at Cowan Road Baptist Church, Gulfport. Her four granddaughters, Kay and Pam, Robin and Danielle, have been a joy for her, she said. Besides them, she also has Laura, who "adopted" her as a grandmother because she had no living grandmother of her own. When she uses any of her own handicrafts as decorations for class meetings, party, or such, she makes extra ones for Laura, Danielle, and Pam. Laura, age 11, comes to see her often and says, "I want to be with you for just a minute." While Laura made a trip to England, Frances agreed to be babysitter for her dolls.

Of her, Frank Gunn, pastor of First, Biloxi, said, "Mrs. Cody is humble, always behind the scenes. She is 'ministry in action.'"



Frances Cody at Harbor House, Biloxi.

Devotional

A quarter's worth of faith

By John Sharp
Matthew 17:20

When the situation is impossible, complete faith in God can allow us as God's servants to accomplish the unbelievable. Jesus said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

As a newly married couple, my wife and I moved to Hattiesburg and enrolled in William Carey College. Our parents and others helped, but working our way through school was a necessity. I found a job on campus on the grounds crew, but my wife could not find a job. I was also hoping to supply preach in area churches, but this simply did not happen. During the second semester of school, our money ran out. I was very frustrated.

While picking up trash on campus on a Wednesday morning, I was walking outside a dormitory. I was praying, "Lord, why am I in such a mess? I am trying to do your will for my life, and I am flat broke." While I was praying, I picked up a candy wrapper that had something in it. It was a quarter. There I was, praying for money, and money appeared.

God spoke to me through that quarter. It was as if he said to me, "If you have as little as a quarter's worth of faith in me I will pull you through." Needless to say, I recommitted my life to him that day. God did indeed take care of us. Money began to appear from unusual sources, and within a week my wife went to work. For the first time in months I preached the following Sunday.

Jesus taught that even a small amount of faith in God can accomplish great things. Having money provided when you are broke may not be a great thing to you, but it was to my wife and me. May you and I daily bring our needs to God in faith and then find out what he can do in and through us.

Sharp is pastor, Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol.

Budget about even with last year's

NASHVILLE (BP) — Halfway through its fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's combined ministry budget remains even with last year's pace.

The SBC Cooperative Program received \$68,067,886 through March, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee. That amount is 0.01 percent — or \$4,982 — more than receipts for the first six months of the 1987-88 fiscal year.

March receipts were \$9,397,031, a 16.1 percent drop from March 1988, Bennett said.

The current overall Cooperative Program goal is \$145.6 million. The "basic operating budget" — funds distributed to 18 convention organizations that conduct evangelistic, missionary, educational and church-starting ministries worldwide — is \$137.61 million.



Leake laymen lead revival in Ohio

A team of laymen from Leake County, plus one from Jackson, led in a revival at the Rolling Hills Baptist Church, Fairfield, Ohio, north of Cincinnati, April 7, 8, and 9. They drove all night on the way, and began services the night following arrival, with little rest between.

On Friday night, there were 40 rededications. Also, during the revival, there was one profession of faith. Those who went are pictured, left to right, Harold Wright, Standing Pine Church, Leake County; Harry Daniel and Jeff Hillman, both from Center Hill (Leake); Tony Kinton, First Church, Carthage; and at right, in wheelchair, Rodney Kendrick, Forest Hill, Jackson. Rolling Hills, Chuck Lawless, pastor, has about 650 resident members. The team stayed in homes of members. Said Wright, "I was hoping to be a blessing. Instead, I received a blessing. I'm ready to go back right now!"



Baptist Record

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